of colour and Arab life, and large modern stores stocked with every type of goods from America, Europe and the East. The spice bazaar, the second-hand bazaar behind the Municipality and the shops of the metal workers are typically oriental ; the stores in the larger streets with plate glass windows and fixed prices stock a wide range of modern goods which are generally cheaper than elsewhere in the Gulf owing to the low customs duty. Apart from pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold and silver thread embroidery and model dhows there are few purely local products for visitors to buy. The best way to see the bazaar is on foot, it provides innumerable subjects for photos and neither here nor anywhere else in Bahrain is there any objection to the taking of photos.

To the south-west of the town is the Qalat ad-Diwan, beyond it, along Awal Road, is the Isolation Hospital, the Public Health Department and a number of blocks of flats. Opposite them is a large garden with two miniature lakes, known as the Water Garden ; this is a popular place during summer evenings. Beyond the flats is the Mental Hospital. It is probable that within the next few years this area will undergo extensive development.

To the south-east is the district of Manama known as Quadabiya, up to a few years ago an area of barren sand and swamp land where mosquitos bred but which today is rapidly developing into a residential and entertainment centre. Going along Belgrave Road one passes the Secondary School and Hostel, the Palace and, where the road joins Jufair Road, many houses and bungalows occupied by employees of European commercial firms. Jufair Road then passes the Race Course and Gymkhana Club and terminates in the suburbs of Umm a-Hasan and Jufair; at the latter are the headquarters of the Senior British Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and H.B.M.'s Political Residency.

In the modern districts of Manama there are many wide and well surfaced roads, lined with tree-shaded pavements, while here and there in the town waste plots of land have been made into little gardens with benches, lawns and fountains. Along the water-front runs Sea Road, joining the Muharraq Causeway with the State Hospital at its western end. The Muharraq Causeway took ten years to build, for it served as a relief project when there was unemployment in Bahrain. The Shaikh Hamed Swing Bridge was completed in 1942 by Messrs. Holloways Bros. Many of the principal buildings and offices in Bahrain are on the Sea Road and Prior Road, which is an inland road running parallel to it. In former times the sea extended far into the town, south even of Prior Road, but during the past twenty-five years much of the sea-shore has been reclaimed. In Muharraq similar work can be seen in progress, but in an earlier stage of development.

In the evenings, the busiest part of Manama is Belgrave Road and the part of Quadabiya to its east where there are four cinemas and many coffee-shops, as well as football fields. At sunset the people of the town can be seen strolling along the road to Jufair, or sitting on the benches that line the pavements, later returning to the cinemas

361 and on the shore there is an old deserted fort which was built by the Omanis during a short period when they occupied the Islands. A [504] ferry service of small sailing boats plies between Muharraq and Arad fort, but to drive round the bay to the fort by car takes less time than crossing by boat.

396 Boat building is one of the few local industries of Muharraq and is carried out along the shores of the town, especially on the eastern coast. Carpenters and shipwrights are apt to extend their work half across the road and when driving a car one often has to avoid sails which are pegged out for joining or for repairs, rope winders, men mending nets or carpenters working on big wooden water tanks for the pearling dhows.

361 178 Many visitors to Bahrain never enter Muharraq and by failing to do so they miss the sight of a comparatively untouched Arab town, a sight that is rapidly becoming rarer in the oil rich Persian Gulf.

HEDD

361 Bahrain's number three town is Hedd. Long and narrow, it is built on a strip of land which juts out into the sea at the south-east end of Muharraq Island. The houses are closely packed together and extend right to the edge of the sea, one road, only just wide enough for motor vehicles, runs through the centre of the town and on each side a labyrinth of narrow lanes leads down to the shore. There are few barastis in Hedd and most of the people live in stone houses ; some of them are large, built by pearl merchants in the days when the pearl industry of which Hedd was an important centre, was flourishing. The bazaar is in the main street and it contains many shops which sell all manner of goods. Water is supplied to the town by several artesian wells.

[162] The population of Hedd is entirely Sunni and predominantly Arab, although a few of the shopkeepers are Persians. It includes Arabs of the Bin Ali, Saada, Mesedem and Musallam tribes who used to be very influential in Bahrain ; the last were once the rulers of Qatar. Hedd was originally a diving town but although it still has much contact with the sea, many of its inhabitants work on shore. Its people have a reputation for intelligence and energy and this is shown by the fact that they have produced better results from their schools than any other community. The town is conspicuously clean, owing partly to the fact that it is surrounded by the sea on three sides.

368 633 Hedd has a handsome new police station, at the entrance to the town, which was completed in 1952, a Municipality and Boys' and Girls' Schools which were opened in 1937 and 1939 respectively. For some years the Muharraq Municipality included Hedd in its activities but in 1945 Hedd formed its own elected Municipal Council with four members. There is also in Hedd a dispensary and a small women's hospital with accommodation for a certain number of in-patients.

226 Hedd is famous for its prawns which are caught in special traps and sent to the fish markets of Manama and Muharraq.

MUNICIPALITIES

MANAMA MUNICIPALITY

(From the report of Mr. Mohamed Saleh Shater, Secretary of the Manama Municipality)

633 795 At the beginning of the year, owing to sectarian differences between Sunni and Shia members in 1371 A which caused the resignation of the Shia members, Municipal affairs were being dealt with by a committee of Sunnis. This was the situation until the middle of the year when the Government succeeded in persuading the Shia members to resume their duties on the Council. They returned on the understanding that they would serve for only one year after which an election should be held.

During the latter part of the year the Council functioned in a more or less normal manner; by shelving all matters which might cause controversy between the sects the Council succeeded in performing its duties without serious differences. The situation, however, was not satisfactory.

633 **Finance.** The Financial Committee which drew up the budget was formed from the temporary Sunni committee. Estimated revenue for 1372 was Rs. 7,04,000 and expenditure was assessed at the same figure. The actual revenue exceeded the estimate by Rs. 1,16,000, the expenditure was Rs. 61,000 more than was expected and at the end of the year a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 61,000 was added to the Reserve which was then Rs. 2,83,000.

651 427 The increase in revenue was due to a great extent to higher receipts from house and shop taxes. There were many new buildings in the town and higher rents were charged for existing buildings, both for houses and shops. House taxes and shop taxes on buildings which are leased are charged on a percentage basis of the rent. Taxation on houses which are occupied by their owners is extremely low in comparison with that of rented premises. A large proportion of the rented houses are occupied by foreigners and most of the houses in which the owners live are occupied by people of the country.

425 653 368 During the year the Municipality sold land to the public at the price of Rs. 35,200 and it purchased a new fire engine for Rs. 48,000. The Government presented to the Municipality a motor-driven trailer fire pump and jeep, a rubbish carrying vehicle and a gully emptying vehicle.

364 **Municipal activities.** Town cleaning was effected during the year by two trucks and 30 donkey carts, town rubbish was utilised to reclaim a large portion of sea on the shore at Hora, opposite Cable and Wireless premises. The method of employing donkey carts to carry town refuse is not a satisfactory one. An order was placed in England during the summer for small rubbish-carrying vehicles which can be used in narrow streets.

363 A number of roads in the town were metalled, the area dealt with was about 380,000 square feet on which was used 480,000 cubic feet of stone and 105,000 cubic feet of sand, the whole costing approximately Rs. 1,76,000.

363 247 Some progress was made in widening streets in the bazaar area, 112 new street lights were installed and more trees were planted on the roads, unfortunately each year a number of trees are destroyed, by wind or sometimes by rain which when it falls strongly seems to kill both plants and trees.

362 427 There was much building activity both in the town and on the outskirts of the town, numbers of small houses were built for occupation by their owners and more European style bungalows and flats were built for letting. House rents are excessively high, landlords expect to recover the cost of their property in less than ten years, so building houses for letting is at present a profitable investment. However, so many houses are now being built that it seems possible that in a short time there may be more houses than tenants.

633 342 During the year permits for new buildings were issued by the Municipality for 144 stone houses and 100 barasti huts and permits for repairs and additions to 186 shops and 717 houses were also granted.

1 [AD 1951-52 - Analyst]

[Manama Municipality]

●368 The Municipal fire service was called out to deal with 34 fires, some of them occurring in Muharraq and in the villages. The incidence of serious fires was higher than it has ever been before.

633 Among the routine activities carried out by the Municipality was the inspection of 28,462 sheep and goats, 3446 head of cattle and 47 camels, which comprised the meat supply during the year. Pauper burials were provided for 48 persons; this in the past was a rare event, the increase in the number of cases is partly due to there being so many foreigners in Bahrain. Two pieces of low-lying land on the south of the town were raised by a filling of stone and sand, at the owner's expense. A stone wall 1,750 feet long and 5 feet high was built, in the sea, at Government expense, to surround an area of sea which is being reclaimed by filling with town rubbish covered with sand.

The Municipality issued 1,550 permits for building, 884 notices were sent out to people requiring them to repair drains and sewers and 23 cases were filed in the various courts. The temporary council met 21 times and there were 41 meetings of sub-committees.

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STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1372 ✱

Revenue			Expenditure		
Shop Tax	Rs. 284,817 10 6		Staff Salaries P. Fund, etc.	Rs. 138,183 12 6	
House Tax	244,964 15 0		Office Expenses	7,358 11 0	
Government Grant	100,000 0 0		Town Cleaning	239,742 2 0	
Local Cart Tax	5,991 8 0		Town Lighting	43,009 6 0	
Slaughterhouse Fees	27,015 0 0		Road Metalling and Repairing	176,895 13 3	
Rent of Municipal Property	32,591 12 0		Widening Roads	10,543 4 0	
Miscellaneous taxes and fees	116,652 2 6		Pauper Burials	3,380 0 0	
Licences of professional trades	8,082 4 0		Upkeep of Municipal property	9,642 8 0	
	820,115 4 0		Muharraq shares in certain taxes	25,540 3 0	
			Upkeep of Public W.C's and rubbish bins	4,259 12 0	
			Miscellaneous	7,950 7 6	
			Fire Service, Road Spraying and Trees Watering	72,969 1 8	
			Planting street trees and square gardens	22,106 4 0	
			Slaughterhouse expenses	3,565 0 0	
				765,146 4 11	
			Surplus of Revenue	54,968 15 1	
Total Rs.	820,115 4 0		Total Rs.	820,115 4 0	

Cash in Bank at the end of 1371	Rs.	255,997 5 0
Cash in Bank at the end of 1372		283,387 8 10

MUHARRAQ MUNICIPALITY

(From the report of Mr. Ibrahim Khalfan, Municipal Secretary)

633 652 **Finance.** When the 1372 budget was made a deficit of Rs. 1,59,000 was anticipated. As usual the Finance Committee of the Council planned to spend very much more than they could possibly hope to receive. This year, however, the reckless financial methods of the Council met with more success than they deserved as His Highness Shaikh Sulman made a special grant of 1 lakh from the Privy Purse to the Muharraq Municipal funds. Owing to this unexpected windfall instead of ending the year with a deficit of almost a lakh the revenue exceeded the expenditure by over Rs. 3,000/-.

✱[A.D. 1952-53 -- Analyst]

674 The following were some of the more serious cases of theft ; clothing and money were stolen from people staying in a local hotel in the bazaar, money was stolen from a house in Rafaa and a radio and carpet was stolen from the house of a member of the American Mission. In all these cases the thieves were caught and the stolen property was recovered. In 11 other cases thefts of money, jewellery, wearing apparel, etc., were reported to the Police. In some instances persons were prosecuted for theft, but acquitted and in other cases no evidence was obtained.

Five Pakistanis were prosecuted for "bilking" shop keepers.

674 273 F[illegible]er persons than in the previous year were convicted for contravention of liquor and drug regulations, this does not, however, indicate any decrease in the habit of drinking which among certain classes is becoming almost universal. Altogether 24 persons were prosecuted for distilling, selling and being in possession of liquor and for dealing in hashish and opium.

548 276 In one case a Palestinian was found to be in possession of 15 lbs. of opium. There is every reason to believe that an active trade in opium is carried on through Bahrain to the West. It is brought to Bahrain from Persia and India via the Trucial Coast and then conveyed on to ships in the harbour which carry it to Europe or the United States.

731 **Fires.** There were a number of serious fires during the year in which many people lost their barasti houses and their possessions. Most of the fires were caused by pressure stoves or lamps which ignited Saaf (palm branch) houses. There were no cases of arson.

The most serious fire was in the Telegraph area where 75 houses were completely destroyed together with their contents. A very strong wind fanned the fire which was only prevented from spreading over another area of barasti houses by wide roads on three sides of the site. This was one of the worst fires known in Bahrain. It appears to have been caused by an old blind man who knocked over a fire or a lamp in his house which lit the palm branch walls of the building. No lives were lost. In the village of Mahooz 55 houses were destroyed in one fire a few of these houses had mud and stone walls and matting roofs. In other fires, some of them in Manama and some in the villages, 17, 12, 15 and 14 houses were destroyed. In none of these fires was there any loss of life. In a fire in a launch, anchored off Manama, one man lost his life. More supplies of fire fighting equipment, hose pipe, etc., etc., which had been ordered in England were part of the cargo of a Strick Line ship which caught fire near Sitra and which burned for several days.

[F.68]

AGENCY COURT

RESULT OF PROSECUTIONS IN 1372

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No.	Nature of Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of persons accused.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons acquitted.	Remarks.
1	Causing Death by Rash or Negligent Act	1	1	1	—	
2	Theft	1	1	1	—	
3	Cheating	1	1	1	—	
4	Criminal breach of trust	2	2	2	—	
5	Use of criminal force and assault	1	1	—	1	
6	Liquor drinking and possession of	6	7	6	1	
7	Charas and Opium	1	2	1	1	
8	Affray	1	3	3	—	
		14	18	15	3	

NATIONALITIES :

British	1 person
Indian	3 persons
Pakistan	2 "
Palestine	1 "
Transjordan	1 person
Iran	10 persons
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5: Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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The municipalities are valuable vehicles for carrying out sanitary and health measures among the public. It is easier to introduce unpopular rules, such as anti-malaria regulations, through the municipalities than by direct Government action.

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Fire Precautions, etc. In several parts of the town there are quantities of barasti houses made of palm branches; these buildings are very inflammable. When fires occur in these neighbourhoods the flames spread rapidly. The Manamah Municipality some years ago built fire stations in various parts of the town, equipped with a fire bell and tins of sand for use in emergency. The storing of more than a certain number of tins of petrol and paraffin inside the town was also forbidden, and for this reason the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were given a piece of ground on the sea shore beyond Manamah, on which they built an oil and petrol store. The Government has now ordered a fire engine from England, and when this arrives, valves will be fitted on to the artesian wells in the town so that the engine can fill from any well. The fire engine will be in charge of the police, and will be kept at the Fort.

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Markets and Food Regulations. During the last ten years the municipality has greatly improved the conditions under which food is sold in the bazaars. Animals used to be slaughtered in the town opposite the Municipal Building, and the meat was sold under filthy conditions in a line of palm branch shops whose mud floors were never clean. The monopoly for the meat market and the slaughter-house was in the hands of Shaikh Sulman bin Shaikh Hamad. The municipality, in 1346, built a slaughter-house on the shore at Kozaibia, actually in the sea, connected to the shore by a pier; and by means of an arrangement with Shaikh Sulman a proper stone meat market was built adjoining the Municipal Building. The municipality eventually, with the assistance of the Government, purchased Shaikh Sulman's rights over the slaughter-house, which is now a municipal concern. The negotiations, unfortunately, caused considerable ill-feeling, but the final results were satisfactory.

In 1931 a fish market was built, and during the present year three large steel markets have been erected by His Highness on his own property in the Suk al Arba, which are to be used as vegetable, lucerne, and fruit markets. These buildings, and a number of new stone shops, occupy a site which previously contained barasti buildings. After a serious fire at the end of 1936, the whole of the area was laid bare, and it was then possible to rebuild the markets, replacing straw shelters with stone shops and steel buildings.

Many regulations have been passed by the municipality affecting foodstuffs; dried fish, which has an evil smell, can only be sold in a certain area; the food sold in the hotels and coffee shops is regularly examined by municipal inspectors, who are also responsible for the cleanliness of soda factories. Other matters affecting food in which the municipality has shown an interest—sometimes a rather officious interest—are prevention of short-weight bread, use of soda, adulteration of real ghee with cheap vegetable ghee, short-weight rice, and also standardisation of weights and measures. During Ramadhan, the municipality buys a quantity of sheep and sells meat at cost price in order to assist the poor. Other charitable work which is done by the municipality is the payment of compensation to poor persons whose houses are destroyed in fires, and the burial of paupers.

Public Health Measures. In 1931 the municipality opened a lunatic asylum, which was badly needed. It is under the supervision of the Quarantine Medical Officer. The inmates are men and women, and it usually contains about a dozen patients.

The need for a leper settlement has been often discussed by the council, but this has been postponed until the Government has its own medical officer. There are a number of lepers in Bahrain, especially in the country villages, and undoubtedly steps should be taken to segregate them. Foreign lepers, when they are discovered, are immediately sent home to their own countries.

Attempts to enforce compulsory vaccination have not yet succeeded, though the need for this is appreciated by many members of the council.

Both in Manamah and Muharraq there are municipal midwives—Indian—who also have free dispensaries and clinics for women and children. The Government has recently opened a second